

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00
DODE-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /029 W
-----108963 281039Z /12

R 281002Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3689
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKATA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14147

SONGKHLA 0127 DATE 270235Z JUN 77 BEING REPEATED TO YOU FOR
YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 0127

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: REFUGEE BOAT ARRIVALS

1. TWO MORE REFUGEE BOATS REACHED THE SONGKHLA CAMP JUNE 23.
ONE WITH 33 ABOARD ARRIVED FROM PHAN THIET AFTER FIRST STOPPING
AT PAKPANAN DISTRICT OF NAKORN SRI THAMMARAT. SECOND BOAT WITH
26 ABOARD ARRIVED SONGKHLA FROM PHU QUOC AFTER BEING HELD FOR
ONE DAY IN NARATHIWAT. NONE OF THESE LATEST ARRIVALS HAVE
IMMEDIATE RELATIVES IN THE U.S.

2. THAI AUTHORITIES HERE APPEAR TO BE CONTINUING POLICY OF TRANS-
FERING REFUGEES WHO ARRIVE AT POINTS ALONG THE EAST COAST TO THE
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SONGKHLA CAMP. ONE OF THE ARRIVALS FROM PHAN THIET IS THOUGHT
BY REFUGEES IN THE CAMP TO HAVE SERVED IN A MILITARY UNIT WHOSE
MISSION IT WAS TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM ESCAPING BY BOAT FROM THE
PHAN THIET AREA. HE WAS BEATEN UP BY OTHER REFUGEES UPON ARRIVAL,
BUT IS NOW IN FAIR CONDITION IN THE CAMP. THAI POLICE ARE
REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING TRANSFERING HIM TO JAIL IF THERE IS ANY
FURTHER TROUBLE.

3. WHILE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES ARRIVING IN JUNE WILL PROBABLY NOT REACH PEAK OF MAY WHICH WAS LARGEST NUMBER FOR A SINGLE MONTH, THE INFLUX CONTINUES TO BE STEADY AND RECENT ARRIVALS SAY MANY MORE ARE PLANNING TO COME. SONGKHLA CAMP WHICH WAS RECENTLY EXPANDED TO ACCOMODATE LARGER NUMBERS IS AGAIN OVERFLOWING WITH PRESENT TOTAL OF 980. IF INFLUX CONTINUES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AT ANYTHING LIKE PRESENT RATE CAMP MAY HAVE TO BE EXPANDED DOWN THE BEACH INTO AN AREA WHICH IS A PUBLIC PARK. BELIEVE THAI OFFICIALS HERE WOULD VIEW EXPANSION INTO THE PARK AS HIGHLY UNDESIREABLE AND WE ARE APT TO HEAR COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE AESTHETIC PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE REFUGEES IN ADDITION TO THE ARGUMENTS ABOUT SECURITY ALREADY BEING ADVANCED.

HAMILTON
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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